

Application No. 10/698,757
Amendment dated May 31, 2006
After Final Office Action of March 31, 2006

Docket No.: 66022-0029

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed March 31, 2006, and thank Examiner Ahmad for the detailed review of the pending claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 31, and 36. By way of this amendment, no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 31-42 remain pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 and 31-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Barrett* (U.S. Patent 4,543,765). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

First and foremost, *Barrett* does not disclose an edge band, as asserted by the Examiner. Indeed, *Barrett* simply discloses a “unitized floor panel” made up of unattached wooden tiles.

Further, Independent claims 1, 31 and 36, have been amended to clarify that the positively claimed edge band is attachable to at least one surface of a three dimensional article. Clearly, *Barrett* does not teach this claimed feature. Indeed, *Barrett* only discloses applying the unitized floor panel, not to a three dimensional article, but solely to a floor. *See, e.g., Col. 1, lines 9-16.* For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 31, and 36 are patentable over *Barrett*. Further, dependent claims 2-8, 32-35 and 37-42 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency upon allowable claims 1, 31, and 36.

Independent claim 31, as amended, also requires that the edge band include a continuous and uninterrupted roll of a wood portion. This feature is also not shown in *Barrett*. Indeed, *Barrett* makes clear that the wooden tiles are “unattached” to one another. *See Abstract.* For this independent reason, independent claim 31, as well as dependent claims 32-35 are separately patentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

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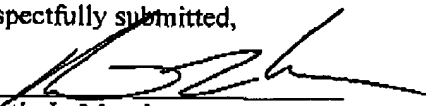
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 66022-0029 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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